

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 272999

73

ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

66613

DRAFTED BY: NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE

APPROVED BY: NEA:LBLAINGEN

S/S:WHLUERS

----- 045057

O 122214Z DEC 74 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 272999

EXDIS, TOSEC 112

FOLLOWING REPEATS ISLAMABAD 11550 ACTION DEPT INFO DACCA
12 DEC

QUOTE

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 11550

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG

SUBJECT: PAK-BANGLADESH RELATIONS

REF: STATE 252256; DACCA 5316; DACCA 5462; STATE 267372

1. I DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE OF ABOVE FOUR MESSAGES GROWING
OUT OF THE SECRETARY'S TALKS IN BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN
ON THE SUBJECT OF PAK-BANGLADESH RELATIONS YESTERDAY WITH
FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI. IN ADDITION, SO THAT POSSIBLE
MISUNDERSTANDING WOULD BE AVOIDED, I LEFT AN AIDE MEMOIRE
CONTAINING THE IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF THESE CABLED EXCHANGES.
SHAHI SAID HE WOULD INFORM BHUTTO OF OUR DISCUSSION. FROM
HIS COMMENTS, HOWEVER, I WOULD EXPECT NO NEW INITIATIVE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 272999

FROM HERE ON PAK-BANGLADESH DIFFICULTIES FOR AT LEAST SOME

TIME.

2. SHAHI SAID THAT IT WOULD APPEAR FROM THE TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY AND OTHERS, THAT THE BENGALLEES, PERHAPS IN ORDER TO APPEAR MORE REASONABLE, ARE NOW REINTERPRETING THE POSITION THEY TOOK IN THE BILATERAL TALKS OF LAST JUNE. IT WAS NOT, HE SAID, THAT THEY WANTED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE SHWNING OF ASSETS. THE HARD FACTS WERE THAT THEY WANTED 56 PERCENT OF ALL ASSETS IMMEDIATELY WITH NO DISCUSSION OF SHARING OF LIABILITIES. HE SAID THIS POSITION SEEMED MOST UNREASONABLE TO THE PAKS, AND TO MOST EVERYONE ELSE, AND HENCE THE EFFORT NOW TO GLOSS OVER THEIR POSITION. SHAHI SAID THAT BHUTTO HAD TAKEN THE POSITION THAT THIS WAS A MATTER OF SUFFICIENT COMPLEXITY TO WARRANT TALKS ON THE EXPERT LEVEL, WHICH PAKISTAN WAS QUITE PREPARED TO DO. BHUTTO HAD ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT WHEN THE EXPERTS MET AN IMPASSE, AS IT WAS INDEED PROBABLE THEY WOULD, THE MATERIAL THEY HAD DEVELOPED COULD BE SUBMITTED UPSTAIRS FOR POSSIBLE RESOLUTION BY BHUTTO AND MUJIB PERSONALLY. THE PAKS FELT THEN, AND INDEED FEEL NOW, THAT THIS WAS A REASONABLE POSITION; THEY RESENT THE FACT THAT MUJIB AND OTHERS CONTINUE TO DISTORT THE PAK POSITION.

3. SHAHI SPOKE WITH SOME FEELING ABOUT EVIDENCE THEY HAVE THAT MUJIB AND OTHERS SEEM TO LOSE NO OPPORTUNITY TO MALIGN PAKISTAN IN OTHER CAPITALS, AND PARTICULARLY IN OTHER MUSLIM CAPITALS. HE SAID HE WAS APPALLED AT THE NUMBER OF MUSLIM FRIENDS WHO CAME TO HIM AT THE UNITED NATIONS REFERRING TO MALICIOUS PRESENTATIONS THE BENGALLEES HAD MADE TO THEM ABOUT PAKISTAN. HE SAID IT WOULD SEEM THAT MUJIB HAS AN OBSESSION TO PLACE ALL THE BLAME FOR TROUBLES IN BANGLADESH ON THE PAKS, AND IS STILL MAKING MUCH OF HIS CLAIM THAT THE PAKS MURDERED 3 MILLION OF HIS PEOPWE, HAD EXPLOITED EAST PAKISTAN IN A MANNER WHICH LED TO ALL OF TODAY'S PROBLEMS IN BANGLADESH, ETC. DURING HIS VISIT TO THE U.N., MUJIB HAD PERSONALLY TAKEN THIS LINE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES AND WITH THE AMERICAN PRESS, AS PRESS TREATMENT CLEARLY SHOWED.

4. SHAHI SAID ALL THIS WAS A KEEN DISAPPOINTMENT TO HIM
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 272999

PERSONALLY AS HE HAD HOPED NORMALIZATION WITH RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH COULD HAVE MOVED MORE SMOOTHLY AND RAPIDLY. HE SAID HE FEARED THAT THE HARSH PROTRAYAL OF PAKISTAN MIGHT BE AIMED AT INDUCING OTHERS TO GIVE MORE ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH. IT MIGHT ALSO BE FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION STEMMING FROM A DESIRE BY LEADERS OF BANGLADESH TO BLAME OTHERS FOR CURRENT DIFFICULTIES THERE. SHAHI

RHETORICALLY ASKED HOW, IF EITHER OF THESE TWO THINGS
WERE INDEED FACTORS, THERE COULD BE A CLIMATE FOR
PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. I TOLD SHAHI I WAS DISAPPOINTED TO HEAR HIM SPEAK
IN SUCH A DISCOURAGING TONE AND HOPED THAT A BETTER
CLIMATE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. I SAID THAT ALTHOUGH WE
WOULD NOT WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE SUBSTANCE OF
THE MATTER, WE WOULD REMAIN READY TO BE HELPFUL IF THE
PARTIES EVER DECIDED THAT WE COULD BE USEFUL. I MADE
CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WE DID NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY FURTHER
INITIATIVE AT THIS TIME.
BYROADE
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ASSETS, LIABILITIES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE272999
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/PAB:PDCONSTABLE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740361-0708
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741239/aaaabhev.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 74 STATE 252256, 74 DACCA 5316, 74 DACCA 5462, 74 STATE 267372
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAK-BANGLADESH RELATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PK, BG
To: BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005